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THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE

*PRESENTATION OF THE
FRANKLIN MEDAL TO SI-
GNOR MARCONI AND
DR. MENDENHALL*

THE Franklin Institute made the annual presentation of its Franklin Medal, in the auditorium of the institute on May 15. This medal, founded in 1914 and awarded to "those workers in physical science or technology, without regard to country, whose efforts, in the opinion of the institute, have done most to advance a knowledge of physical science or its applications," was awarded to Signor Guglielmo Marconi, electrical engineer and member of the Italian Senate, and to Dr. Thomas Corwin Mendenhall, physicist, of Ravenna, Ohio.

The award to Senator Marconi was made in recognition of his "brilliant inception and successful development of the application of magneto-electric waves to the transmission of signals and telegrams without the use of metallic conductors." The award to Dr. Mendenhall was made in recognition of his "fruitful and indefatigable labors in physical research, particularly his contributions to our knowledge of physical constants and electrical standards."

Count Macchi De Cellere, on behalf of the Royal Italian Government, received the Franklin Medal for Senator Marconi, and addressed the institute when the medal was presented to him. Upon the presentation of the medal to Dr. Mendenhall, he addressed the Institute on the subject of "Some Metrological Memories."

Guglielmo Marconi was born in Bologna in 1874, and carried out his first experiments in connection with his system of wireless telegraphy at Bologna in 1890. These attracted the attention of Sir William Henry Preece, electrician-in-chief of the English Postal Telegraph, who tested the apparatus with success in England; soon afterward, in cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Marine, Signor Marconi succeeded in sending messages from Spezia to a steamer 15 kilometers distant. In 1899 he established wireless communication between France and England across the English Channel. Signals were later transmitted by his system of wireless telegraphy across the Atlantic Ocean, from Poldhu, Cornwall, to St. John's, Newfoundland. In December, 1902, he was able to announce the establishment of wireless telegraphic com-



THE FRANKLIN MEDAL.



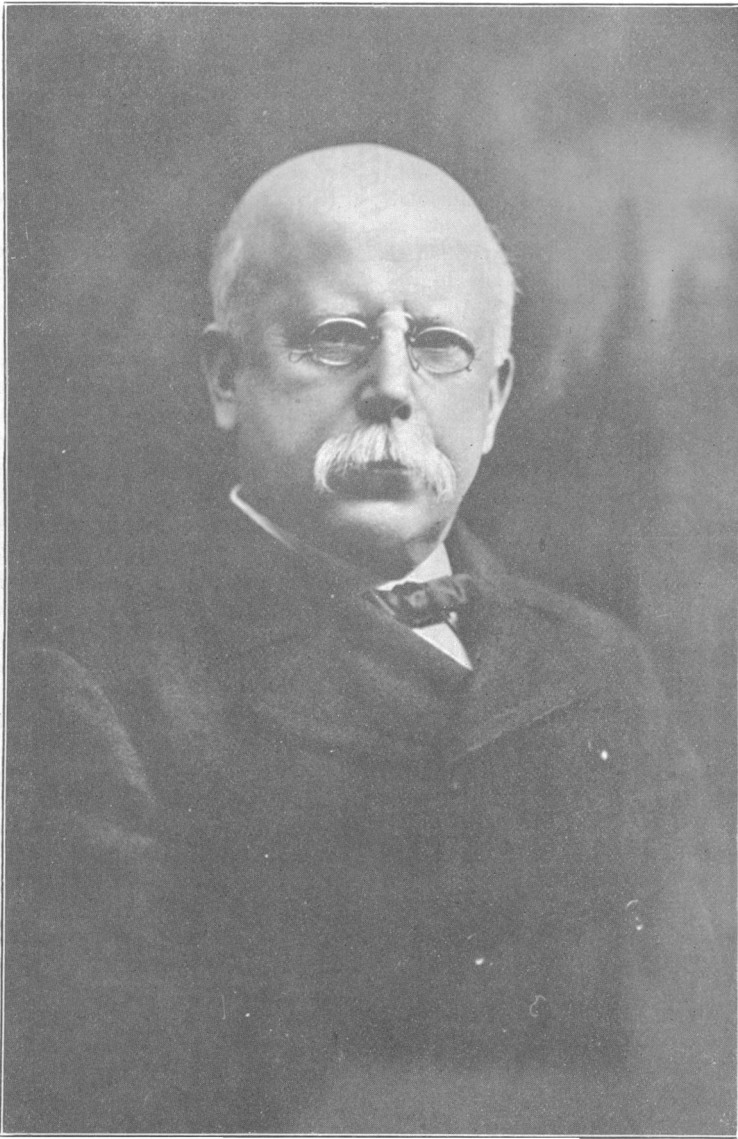
GUGLIELMO MARCONI.

On January 18, 1903, there was sent, by Signor Marconi, from the wireless station at South Wellfleet, Cape Cod, Mass., to the station at Poldhu, Cornwall, England, a distance of 3,000 miles, the message—destined soon to be historic—from the President of the United States to the King of England. This photograph was taken by A. B. Phelan exclusively for *McClure's Magazine* immediately after the sending of the message.

munication by his system between Canada and England, and in January, 1903, he transmitted a message from the President of the United States to the King of England, inaugurating wireless connection also between Cape Cod (Mass.) and Cornwall.

Thomas Corwin Mendenhall was born in Ohio in 1841. He was professor of physics at the Ohio State University from 1873 to 1878, at the Imperial University of Japan

from 1878 to 1881 and again at the Ohio State University from 1881 to 1884. Dr. Mendenhall was president of the Rose Polytechnic Institute from 1886 to 1889, superintendent of U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey from 1889 to 1894 and president of Worcester Polytechnic Institute from 1894 to 1901. At the International Electrical Congress held in Chicago in 1893, Dr. Mendenhall was chosen one of a committee of five delegates, to formulate definitions for the fun-



THOMAS CORWIN MENDENHALL.

damental units of electrical measurement: the ohm, the ampere, and the volt. The members of this committee were Ayrton, Mascart, Mendenhall, Rowland and von Helmholtz, and the definitions agreed upon are known as the "International electrical units."

THE SOLAR ECLIPSE OF JUNE 8

FROM the earliest times of which there is record a total eclipse of the sun has excited wonder and been the occasion of omens and portents. Now that its cause is understood, it is still a striking occurrence, not